

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 06087 021235Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----021239 111352 /12
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0164

S E C R E T PARIS 06087

NODIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR VN US
SUBJ: US-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS: PRESIDENTIAL
COMMISSION

REF: (A) PARIS 6052, (B) STATE 44732

1. SRV FIRST SECRETARY DO THANH TOLD EMBOFF AT 1200 MARCH 2 THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A CABLE FROM HANOI WITH NEW INSTRUCTIONS. HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER HIS REPORT OF OUR MEETING OF 1700 MARCH 1 HAD REACHED HANOI WHEN THIS MESSAGE WAS SENT, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT IT DOES NOT REFLECT HIS REPORT OF YESTERDAY. HANOI ASKED HIM TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING ORAL POINTS:

- (1) HANOI PROPOSES THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES MEET IN PARIS ON MARCH 8,
- (2) THEY PROPOSE THAT THE LEVEL BE THAT OF THE AMBASSADORS IN PARIS,
- (3) THEY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE NUMBER OF OTHER PERSONS WHO WILL ACCOMPANY THE COMMISSION, THE MEMBERS OF THE STAFF, SUPPORT PERSONNEL, AND CREW,
- (4) HANOI WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE IN DETAIL THE FUNCTION OF MR. ROSENTHAL.

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2. DO THANH SAID THE PROPOSAL THAT THE MEETING BE AT THE LEVEL OF AMBASSADORS REFLECTED HANOI'S VIEW THAT THE DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS ALSO CONCERN "THE CONTENTS" OF THE PROBLEMS. WITH MORE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED, THEY WISHED A HIGHER RANKING CONTACT. EMBOFF REITERATED THE VIEW CONTAINED IN REF B

CONCERNING THE GOAL, IN OUR VIEW, OF THE PARIS MEETING AS PREPARING THE VISIT OF THE COMMISSION, WHICH IN TURN WOULD BE CHARGED WITH DISCUSSING MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE. AS FOR THE COMPETENCE OF MR. ROSENTHAL CONCERNING THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION, EMBOFF REPEATED THE CHARACTERIZATION OF ROSENTHAL'S PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE MISSION (PARA 3 REF B) AND THE ROLE HE WILL PLAY AS HEAD OF THE STAFF. EMBOFF OPINED WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF THE VIETNAMESE WISHED THEIR SIDE TO BE HEADED BY AMBASSADOR VO VAN SUNG, BUT WE HAD DECIDED THAT OUR SIDE SHOULD BE HEADED BY ROSENTHAL.

3. DO THANH ASKED US TO REPLY AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLY TO THE POINTS HE HAD JUST RAISED, AND FOR HIS PART IF HE RECEIVED A FURTHER MESSAGE FROM HANOI ACCEPTING OUR PROPOSALS, HE WOULD CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY.

4. COMMENT: EMBOFF HAD PRESSED FOR A CLEAR INTERPRETATION OF THE WORLD "CONTENTS" IN TRINH'S LETTER, AND DO THANH HAD THEN UNDERLINED THE "PREPARATORY" NATURE OF THE PARIS MEETING, I.E. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA (PARA 4 PARIS 5419). DO THANH HAS BEEN EMBARRASSED WHEN BACKTRACKING FROM THIS INTERPRETATION. HANOI HAS CLEARLY INSTRUCTED HIM TO PRESS FOR A DISCUSSION OF MORE "SUBSTANTIVE" MATTERS, BUT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO INSIST THAT IT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE COMMISSION ITSELF TO MAKE THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CARTER WITH THE SRV.

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Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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